

QA-129
Callahan Farm
Queenstown vicinity
Private

early 19th century

The frame house on the Callahan Farm was probably constructed in more than one period. The main house certainly predates the handsome Victorian woodwork of the west gable and the south entrance porch. The overall form, the restrained fenestration pattern and the large gable end chimney are not atypical of late 18th century Federal houses in this region, though the house could date as late as the second quarter of the 19th century. The rear L may be a later addition, while the east wing appears to be of mid-19th century date or earlier.

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

TO: Survey File

FROM: ORV

RE: Site visit to Philip Callahan Farm (QA-129)

The following notes were taken during a site visit to the Callahan Farm on October 24, 1988. The first floor of the main house and the kitchen in the rear wing were under renovation, exposing early framing and brick nogging in the main house. The address and telephone number of the owners:

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Callahan
RFD 2, Box 456
Queenstown, Maryland 21658
(827-8839 or 822-1557)

The Main House

The house on the Callahan Farm is of frame construction on a full brick foundation, two stories high, and two bays long and one room deep. It is oriented on an east-west axis with a large brick chimney set flush in the west end of the pitched gable roof.

Originally constructed in the latter part of the Federal period, it was renovated and enlarged circa 1885-1900.

The principal facade faces south, with the entrance in the east bay and a large 2/2 window with Victorian trim in the west bay. Interior framing evidence suggests this window replaced a 9/6 Federal period window. Smaller openings with 2/2 Victorian sash on the second story retain Federal period trim and were presumably fitted with 6/6 sash.

The brick foundation is laid in 5:1 common bond and is pierced by a single window opening in the west bay fitted with a beaded frame. Aluminum siding conceals the earlier wall sheathing and all but the Victorian brackets of the cornice; the roof is standing seam sheet metal.

The only openings in the west gable are a pair of cellar windows and two four-light windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable. The Victorian period cornice remains intact in the upper gable, with decorative wood shingle siding and elaborately scroll-sawn decorative work in the gable peak. The large corbeled chimney remains largely intact and is a clear indication that the house predates the Victorian period.

Maryland

Department of Housing and Community Development
Shaw House, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 974-5000

William Donald Schaefer
Governor

Jacqueline H. Rogers
Secretary, DHCD

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A two-story frame wing conceals the eastern portion of the rear or north facade. A door in the west bay of the first story presumably replaces an original 9/6 window while the second story opening has been fitted with 2/2 sash and modern trim. This facade has been covered with wood shingle siding; the cornice remains intact to the Victorian period.

Almost all of the east gable has been altered in the Victorian period to provide a larger stair hall and more room inside, and to join with a two-part, two-story rear wing.

The interior of the main house originally consisted of a two-room plan with a large parlor to the west and a stair passage to the east. The parlor has been opened up during a renovation now underway, revealing heavy timber framing with brick nogging in-fill. The nogging is laid on edge (with the exception of the northwest corner) and remains in remarkably good condition. Framing evidence and scars in the plaster fragments suggest that a built-in cupboard was located in the northwest corner, though this does not fully clarify why the nogging was done differently. A partial ghost of the original mantel is also evident, and it seems highly likely that the elaborate Federal mantel in the second floor chamber was moved upstairs and replaced during the Victorian renovations. The parlor now has a large and elaborate polychrome slate mantel, one of the best examples of this style in the county. Beaded baseboard is the only original trim to survive; the rest is stock Victorian but with some very fine Victorian doors, including one fitted with an internal lock marked "New York City Make - 1885."

Also visible at present is the stud partition between the parlor and the passage with riven lathing secured with early machine nails, and the pit sawn, roughly finished ceiling joists. The passage was enlarged in the Victorian period and the original stair replaced with a closed-string stair with large, elaborate newel posts and turned balusters.

The second story consists of a chamber over the parlor and a stair passage partitioned to form an unheated chamber at the front of the passage. The most significant feature of this room is the large and elaborate Federal mantel in the west chamber. This consists of a board surround with paneled pilasters below reeded sideblocks and center block and a molded shelf with lozenge style dentil course. It stands 60 inches high and is 63 inches across, a comfortable fit for the parlor chimney breast but unusually large for a second story chamber.

The third story is also divided into two chambers, but was probably not finished until the 1840s. The plaster is applied to sawn lath and the handsome four-panel door is hung on hinges marked "N.ENG.BUTT" (New England Butt). The door has Greek Revival panel molds and is painted with contrasting dark brown stiles and rails and lighter panels.

The common rafter roof is of standard construction but the collars are nailed with large double-struck, hand headed machine nails rather than pinned with pegs.

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The cellar was originally used as a kitchen and includes a cooking fireplace in the west gable fitted with a trammel bar. Remnants of riven lath and plaster are evident between the joists, nailed to the underside of the flooring, and a later sawn lath and plaster ceiling remains largely intact, with the lath nailed to the joists. Evidence of the original cellar stair remains in the northeast corner of the cellar.

Smoke House

A rectangular brick meat house in the yard appears to be contemporary with the main house. It measures 12 feet wide and 14 feet 2 inches long, with a door centered on the front facade. The pitched gable roof is covered with sheets of metal roofing. The brickwork is 5:1 common bond with some queen closers at the corners and openings.

The most significant feature of this building is the original brick flue and fire opening in the southeast corner of the building. This was designed to be stoked from the exterior on the gable end, and a short chimney shaft carried the smoke and heat into the interior.

The interior has a dirt floor and whitewashed walls, with five heavy tie beams resting on flat one-inch wall plates. The roof is constructed of five pairs of common rafters with a single collar beam half-lapped and nailed into the rafter pairs. Original shingle nailers remain but the shingles have been replaced with metal roofing. Heavy smoke on the underside of the metal roof shows that the building was used until modern times.

The door is an especially fine example of a built-up door consisting of vertical boards on the interior and horizontal beaded boards fitted into a frame on the exterior. Nails are driven through in a regular pattern and are clinched on the inside face. The door is hung on large wrought strap hinges and can be secured with a wrought latch.

Farm Buildings

A frame stable and a frame granary in the farm yard appear to date to the third quarter of the 19th century; a third barn with distinctive Victorian features presumably dates to the late 19th century work on the main house. All three buildings merit further analysis.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dr. James Davidson Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Callahan Farm**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Green Spring Road

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Phillip T. Callahan, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Green Spring Road

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21658**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County CourthouseLiber #: CWC 84Folio #: 784

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-129

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Callahan Farm is located on the east side of Green Spring Road approximately one mile south of the intersection with U.S. Route 301 and 1 1/2 miles east of Queenstown.

The early house on the Callahan Farm is of frame construction, two stories high, two bays wide and one room deep, with a large flush brick chimney projecting from the west end of the pitched gable roof. A two story frame addition projects from the east end of the rear facade and a second wing projects from the northeast corner of the rear L. This latter wing is also of frame construction and is two bays wide, one room deep and a true story-and-a-half in height.

The principal facade faces approximately south. There is a door in the east bay and a large 2/2 window in the west bay on the first story and two smaller 2/2 windows similarly placed on the second story. One cellar window is visible in the west bay; there are no dormer windows on the standing seam metal roof. The house rests on a brick foundation and is covered with aluminum siding. The eaves are boxed in and supported with scrolled brackets. A handsome Victorian gable roof porch at the east end of this

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

facade provides shelter to the entrance door.

A pair of small windows in the upper gable are the only openings in the west gable facade. The aluminum siding is carried up to the top of the second story cornice, which returns at the corners. Decorative wood shingle siding survives above this point. The gable eaves are boxed and trimmed with a complex crown mold and decorative scrollwork verge boards enhance this portion of the house.

The east gable was expanded in the late 19th century and now joins with the east wall of the rear wing.

This house was surveyed as part of a state highway study and was not examined in detail. The overall form of the main house and in particular the very fine gable chimney suggest an antebellum house of considerable interest. The fenestration pattern is unusually restrained and the door placement may suggest an interior plan other than the side passage, single parlor plan unusually associated with a side entrance.

The decorative work dating to the Victorian period is exceptionally fine and makes an interesting contrast with the very restrained lines of the early house.

The smaller true story-and-a-half wing also appears to be antebellum, while the rear L is of indeterminate age based on this superficial examination.

This house warrents a much more detailed analysis.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="radio"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The frame house on the Callahan Farm was probably constructed in more than one period. The main house certainly predates the handsome Victorian woodwork of the west gable and the south entrance porch. The overall form, the restrained fenestration pattern and the large gable end chimney are not atypical of late 18th century Federal houses in this region, though the house could date as late as the second quarter of the 19th century. The rear L may be a later addition, while the east wing appears to be of mid-19th century date or earlier.

Dr. James Davidson appears as the owner of this property on the 1860 J.G. Strong's map of Queen Anne's County, and the 1877 atlas of the Eastern Shore. On April 3, 1809, he was elected vestryman of St. Pauls. ⁽¹⁾ Mrs. Barton of Queen Anne Historical Society remembered that Dr. Davidson was a prominent

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

member of the Queenstown community in the late 19th century and was related to the Carmichaels. (2)

A Dr. James Davidson appears in the tax records of Queen Anne's County as early as the 1793 tax assessment. In the 1841 assessment a second party of that name (supposedly the owner of the farm under discussion) is not recorded as owning a house or land, but does have 8 slaves, \$400 worth of furniture, 36 oz. of silver, 2 horses, 2 cows and 2 boys. By 1843 he has \$2,066 of assessable property, but his specific assets are not itemized. In the 1878 assessment the value of his property assets has quadrupled to \$8,864.

Footnotes

- (1) Frederic Emory, Queen Anne's County, Maryland
(Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1950),
p. 183.
- (2) Interview, April 18, 1979.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Tax Assessments, Hall of Records, Annapolis, and Register of Wills, County Courthouse, Centreville, Md.
2. Emory, Frederic. Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1950.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Staff, SHA/MHT Survey Team

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

May, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438





Dr. James Davidson farm

(Callahan Farm)

GA

Greensburg Rd

Queenstown Md

Rita Suffness Apr. 1, 1979

QA-129

Callahan Farm

Queenstown vicinity

Rita Suffness, April 1979

House from Southwest



QA-129

Callahan Farm
Queenstown vicinity
Rita Suffness, April 1979
Detail of west gable